least 'B' grade) accredited institutions or institutions with at least 75% of the eligible courses accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), are eligible to be considered for declaring them as institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Review of Deemed University status

387. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to initiate reforms in higher education and has decided to review the status awarded to Deemed Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has awarded Deemed University status to a large number of private institutions without checking their accountability; and

(d) if so, the present position of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is in the process of reviewing the functioning of institutions declared as 'deemed-to-be-institutions' through a Committee of Experts.

(c) and (d) Institutions are declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' by the Central Government on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission. The Commission follows the procedure of assessment by Committees of Experts and its guidelines in regard to eligibility of institutions.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

388. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to go ahead with Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme aimed at universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage;

(b) if so, whether Government has also allotted Rs. 20120 crores for the scheme in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, whether in addition Union Government will bear 75 per cent of project expenditure while States will bear balance of 25% and the pattern will be 50:50 in Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether mandate of scheme is to provide universalisation of education by 2020; and

(e) whether in addition objective of scheme are removal of gender, socio economic and disability barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, for north-eastern States, the central share would be 90%.

(d) and (e) The scheme envisages enhancing the enrollment ratio to 75% for classes IX-X within 5 years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, universal access to secondary level education by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

Change in nomenclature of Deemed Universities

†389.SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed Deemed Universities to remove the word 'deemed' from the name;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Yashpal Committee constituted by Government on education had recommended that there is no need of deemed universities;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the degrees awarded by deemed universities are not recognized as university degrees; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the removal of the word 'deemed' from 'deemed universities' will enable these universities to deceive and exploit the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the then Secretary Higher Education, the University Grants Commission conveyed its approval to the use of the word "University" by institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' with a condition that such institutions were required to state the notification number of the Government of India and that they were declared under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

(c) The Yash Pal Committee constituted by the Central Government has expressed concern about the increase in the number of institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' over the years and has recommended that granting of the status of deemed-to-be-universities be put on hold till unambiguous and rational guidelines are evolved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.